



Salvation

In

Stages

Saving
The
Spirit

Saving
The
Soul

Saving
The
Body

Minister Khumalo

Salvation in stages

Saving the Spirit – Saving the Soul – Saving the body

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Dedication

As one called by the Lord Jesus Christ to teach the saints, I have endeavored to do so through writing. This book I dedicate to everyone who seeks to understand the matters of salvation and the basic teaching of the gospel. I pray that you are transformed by reading this book, and that your relationship with the Lord is improved for the better.

You are loved dearly!

Acknowledgements

A special thanks to my wife for the continuous support that I receive from her which allowed me to write this book as it also allows me to minister for the Lord Jesus Christ at any opportune time. To Camp Ministry and every member, from leading committee to the general members, thank you all for your continuous support.

This book would not have been completed successfully with Luthando Bhengu the leader and founder of Camp Ministry. My good sir, I truly bless the King of kings because of you, thank you.

Foreword

This book is a library of revelation concerning the subject of salvation and how it comes to believers in different stages. As a writer of this book I fell in love with it and I must admit that in the process of writing this book I also grew in the knowledge of the Lord, transformed by the word of God.

I believe that this book will transform the lives of all those who would read it and prayerfully rely on the Holy Spirit for understanding and revelation. The truths herein are clearly portrayed and they are taught through the scriptures, which suggest that the reader of this book will benefit more from it if they would use their bibles to understand these truths and read for themselves the scriptures herein quoted. May your life be transformed as you read this book.

Minister L. Khumalo

Introduction

When man fell into sin, the immediate outcome was death. He immediately died and was permeated by death in every sphere of his being. His entire being – spirit, soul and body, was permeated by death that came through sin. He inherited a new nature (sin nature) immediately. He was corrupted by sin nature, and not only him but also the earth which he was given to govern, fell with him. It may astonish some people to hear that death was the immediate consequence of disobeying God, because Adam lived for over eight hundred years, and begat many sons and daughters. Death in this context denotes separation from the Life of God.

God had warn Adam that on the day he ate of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he will die on that selfsame day (see Genesis 2:17). Therefore knowing that God cannot lie, we understand that they really died after eating the fruit. The fruit of the tree was deadly. Later on, the scriptures bring light to what death truly is – which I explain in my book, *Delivered from the struggle with God*. Some may explain this death as spiritual death. This is partial truth however, because it is not only the spirit of man that died or was permeated with death when man fell into sin, but his soul and body also died.

This book is written to explain, how all of man is saved through the work of the cross of Christ. Since man died spirit, soul and body, then he has to be saved or redeemed spirit, soul and body as well. This salvation was wrought by our Champion, the Lord Jesus Christ through his death on the cross and his resurrection, but it comes to us in different stages. The title of the book is *Salvation In Stages*, because the book explains the stages of salvation and how they differ from one another, i.e. the salvation of the spirit is different from the salvation of the soul, and salvation of the spirit does not occur simultaneously with the salvation of the soul and of the body.

Understanding this helps one to understand how he ought to respond to, or appropriate the salvation of his spirit, and how to work out the salvation of his soul. This helps man to understand his role in salvation of his spirit and soul while he awaits the redemption of his body. The book deals with the subject under four sections according to the divisions of man's structure, namely; spirit, soul and body. The first section is dedicated to the Saviour himself. We cannot understand and appreciate our salvation unless we first understand who it is that died for our sins.

As you read this book, please follow closely because I tend to quote many scriptures. Sometimes I avoid quoting more scriptures because I fear that the readers may end up getting confused and lose the point that a certain passage is intended to communicate. It will serve you well, when you feel like you are missing the point to go back up and pick your reading where you last felt like you understood what was being communicated. I believe that the Holy Spirit will help you understand the truths of the scriptures if you ask him and allow him to communicate with you as you read this book. If I missed something, the Holy Spirit will bring it to your attention, if you allow him, and teach you.

Section One

The Savior Himself

Chapter One

Salvation

The work of Christ

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. – Romans 5:19, KJV

Praise, glory and all honor be to our God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who through Christ Jesus redeemed us from the corruption of sin and death. He caused us to be born again, having cancelled the record of our debts, and he called us to be heirs with Christ Jesus, our Lord and his dear Son. He gave Christ to the world, not only as his Best, but also as his Only Son, and through him he received many sons whom he ransomed through His blood. Christ wrought salvation for us, and he fulfilled every last requirement for our release from the penalty of sin and the curses of the law. Salvation now comes to us totally free as a gift from God, not because of our works and certainly not because of our goodness. It is the obedience of Christ that wrought salvation for you, not your own works.

God did not save us because he saw some potential of being good in us, no. We were dead in our trespasses, enslaved to the devil, and doing only evil works. We were by nature, children of wrath. A dead person cannot do anything, and for as long as he remains dead, he has no potential to do anything at all. That is how we were toward God when he sent his Son to the world to die for us and save us. We were utterly worthless to him, and yet he priced us so dearly because of his great love. Yes, God saved you because he loved you. The one thing that motivated him to save you, was his love for you.

The scriptures tell us:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV

And

And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

- Romans 11:6, KJV

The scriptures are careful to make distinction between grace and works. If our salvation is by works, then it is no longer by grace, and if it is by grace then it is no longer on the bases of our works. This truth will be illuminated as you continue on in this book. It is clear throughout the scriptures that salvation comes to us as a gift from God, not because of anything that we have done to merit that gift. God actually predestined us, according to his foreknowledge and the good pleasure of his will, for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ because of his great love for us.

Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love, he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will.

- Ephesians 1:4-5 ESV

God planned our salvation before we could do anything to deserve it, and indeed we couldn't have done anything to deserve God sacrificing his Son for us in the hands of evil man and rulers of this world. But before we could even ask for it, God had already purposed in his heart to give us grace in his dear Son. This was God's way of showing, not only us but all of creation, how deeply he loves us. He couldn't live without us. He chose to die than to lose us, and he literally laid down his life and died for us, and he was raised from the dead on the third day.

I believe that one of the biggest questions that we ought to ask regarding this salvation is; “How must we respond to such tremendous and astounding grace of God that he has given us in his Son?” This is a very important question and I want you to consider it carefully.

You committed a crime punishable by death against the King. You spent all the days of your life as a fugitive, running away from the King’s presence because of your crimes. While you were on the run, the King sent his servants to you, not to kill you for your crimes but to tell you the good news – that all your sins have been forgiven. The King gave his Son up to be murdered cruelly for your sins, and the King now wants you to be a member of his household, and a fellow heir with his Son whom he raised from the dead. The King not only has pardoned you, he wants to share his power with you and give you a share in his kingdom. Shouldn’t you be careful how you respond to such astounding mercy, dumbfounding love and tremendous kindness?

You really need to be careful how you respond and how you treat the sacrifice of the Son of God. If you really believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for your sins, then you ought to concern yourself with this question, “Am I responding properly to the grace of God?” People respond differently to the grace of God, and that is why God has laid down for us a way in which we ought to respond, and how we ought to treat his sacrifice, lest we be found treating with contempt the sacrifice of his Son. We will be looking at this throughout this book.

The Son of God

In my interactions with different people, I have discovered that there is quite a lot of Christians who are willing to accept the truth that Jesus is the Son of God, but quite many of them are not ready to accept the truth that Jesus is God. Would it not be strange to you, when people acknowledge that you are human but seriously doubt that you would give birth to another human being?

Nobody has a hard time believing that human will give birth to another human, and that animals under normal circumstances, will give birth to animals after their kind. But some people have a hard time believing that God would give birth to God.

I believe that we will appreciate more our salvation when we clearly understand who it was that came to save us through his death. Some considers it blasphemous to say that God died, but the truth is that he did. To redeem mankind, God resolved to stop at nothing, not even immortality would deprive him of an opportunity to have relationship with man whom he so greatly loved. Nobody could kill Jesus because God is immortal, but for our sake Jesus laid down his life of his own accord in order to save us.

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.

- John 10:17-18 ESV

And indeed nobody could take his life away from him, for nobody could kill the Son of God – the Creator of all things. On the night when they came to arrest him, this point was proven. Look at the below scripture and see what happened when they came seeking to arrest him.

Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

- John 18:4-6, KJV

When the soldiers came to arrest him, he simply asked them who they were looking for, and when they told him, he said, "I am he," and they drew back and fell to the ground. What happened? What caused them to draw back and fall? Let me leave that to you to unravel. In quite many occasions, Jesus called himself God and for this reason the Jews wanted to kill him.

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.
- John 8:58-59, KJV

You may be wondering where I get the notion that Jesus called himself God. Well, "I AM" is who God revealed himself to be when Moses asked him who he was. God said to him, "I AM that I am." So when Jesus said to the Jews whom he was speaking to, "Before Abraham was, I AM," to his hearers, he was actually saying that he is God, and that is why immediately after he said this, they picked up stones to stone him. He was identifying himself as the God who appeared to Moses, the God who delivered their forefathers from Egypt.

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "say to this people of Israel, I AM has sent me to you." God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, the Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations."
- Exodus 3:14-15 ESV

There are many incidents recorded, especially in the book of John where the Jews picked up stones to kill Jesus because they said he was blaspheming when he made himself equal with God.

Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.
- John 5:18, KJV

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.
- John 10:31-33, KJV

The Jews couldn't accept that God would become man. He was poor and so humble that they just failed to believe that God could be that way. The true nature of God was foreign to them, they picked up stones many times trying to kill him. Understanding who Jesus truly is, is really important. Do you think if they really had a revelation of who Jesus was, they would have killed him? Don't you think they would have bowed before him and worshipped him? They killed him because they didn't know who he was. They didn't believe him when he told them who he was, even as the prophet Isaiah prophesied this about him;

Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?
- Isaiah 53:1, KJV

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- John 1:10-11, KJV

If you have read up to this point, but you are still not convinced that Jesus is God, then I will not try hard to convince you. I want you to read what the scriptures say about the Lord Jesus Christ, and decide for yourself whether you will give him the honor due to him as your God and your Creator, or you will say that he was a liar and a deceiver, and therefore affirm that they were right to crucify him. I really hope you will choose the former. Let us look at the scriptures.

What does the scriptures say?

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. - John 1:1-4, KJV

The “Word,” spoken of in the above quoted, is metaphorical for the Son of God. The scriptures say that He was God and He was with God. And being God, he created all things, and nothing was created but by him. This is the testimony of the scriptures about who Jesus is. Let’s read on.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. - John 1:14, KJV

Did you catch that? The Word became flesh and dwelt among men – He was God and was with God in the beginning, and then he became man and dwelt among men. He was there in the beginning with God (the Father) and he himself was God (the Son), but then later he was made flesh (man), and dwelt among men. Here is the mystery; God became man. Let us look at more scriptures.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. - Hebrews 1:1-4, KJV

The above scripture is one of my favorite in dealing with Deity of Christ. There is quite a lot that is being said here, and unfortunately I won’t take

time to explain all of it, but please allow me to highlight just a few points, to further establish my point and I will leave the rest to you. I urge you to meditate on these scriptures until you see more of the glory of the Son of God.

Let me note just a few things herein said about the Lord Jesus:

- **He is heir of all things.**
 - Everything belongs to him, you included.
 - The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and them that dwell therein – see Psalm 24:1

- **The worlds were made through him**
 - Jesus is Creator of all things

- **He is the radiance of God's glory and a precise image of God's personality.**
 - If you want to see God, look at Jesus. He is the perfect representation even of his personality.

- **Upholding all things by the word of his power.**
 - All things are upheld by the Lord Jesus' word. He possess authority over all and all things live through him.

- **Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God's very throne and he has become greater than the angels.**

These are clear statements that Jesus is God. Look at what the Lord Jesus said when one of his disciples asked him to show them the Father.

If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?
- John 14:7-9, KJV

The Lord was not being insensitive to Philip's request, but he simply couldn't do anything more to show them the Father. There was not any better way to see the Father than looking at Jesus. In actual fact, there was absolutely no way to see the Father except through looking at the Lord Jesus. He who has seen Jesus has seen the Father.

The words, "have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?" sound to me like they were spoken by the Father himself through the mouth of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus continued to say, "...the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (verse 10). This shows that the Father himself affirmed that the Son was his truest representation. He who has seen the Son has seen the Father.

There are some non-Christian religions that accept Jesus as a prophet or a teacher from God, but who cannot accept him as God. If you believe that Jesus was a teacher or a prophet from God but refuse to believe that he is God, then you are no different from pagans, and you have not come to know who your Saviour truly is. I implore you therefore to look at these scriptures and see the truth about Jesus Christ so that you may believe and honor God. Let us read sum more.

If you are reading these scriptures for the first time under the light of this truth, it will help you to read them slowly and to read them over and over until you have grasped their revelation. I have used different bible versions so that you can get more out of it.

But unto the Son he [God] saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

- Hebrews 1:8-12, KJV (emphasis added)

But of the Son he [God] says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond all your companions.” And “You, Lord, laid the foundations of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

- Hebrews 1:8-12 ESV

Although these are clear enough, let us go through them together, just to be sure that we get the most out of them. Let us look together at what is being said:

- *God says to the Son, “Your throne O God is forever and ever.”*

God calls Jesus God. It is important that you don't miss that. He says that the throne of Jesus is forever and ever, speaking of his kingdom. The kingdom of Jesus is forever and ever and there is no end to his reign. I could quote more scriptures regarding this but I don't want to risk confusing the readers, we will move on therefore.

- *Therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*

The scriptures here plainly call Jesus as God, saying, "God (Jesus), your God (the Father), has anointed you with oil of gladness above all your fellows."

- *Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:*

Did that ring your bell? Well if it didn't ring then let me ring it.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. - Genesis 1:1 ESV.

Do you see the connection? The scriptures are telling us that the work of Genesis 1:1 is actually the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, and this is what God says of Jesus. These are the very words of the Father spoken to the Son. Please read this whole chapter for yourself and be blessed by it. Look outside at creation and know who is responsible for that - Jesus is his name. Again I advise you to read and meditate on these scriptures until you have grasped the revelation of the Son of God.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him [Christ] dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

- Colossians 2:8-9, KJV

Let us look at some more scriptures.

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

- Colossians 1:12-19 KJV

Let us go through the above passage together. The richness of the above quoted is mind boggling and I cannot point out everything there is to grasp from the above, but I do want to show you a few things that I would not like you to miss. Read slowly the above passage and make your own notes about who Jesus is. These are not hard to understand since they are speaking in plain language and not in symbols or types and shadows. Let us peruse them together.

- *The kingdom of his dear Son*

Isn't that what we call the kingdom of God? God has given all things to his Son. He has made him heir of all things. The Kingdom of God that we are preaching is the kingdom of Christ Jesus – he is God.

- *The image of the invisible God*

Not only is Jesus God but he is also the perfect image or representative of God the Father. He is exactly like him. Whatever you see in Christ Jesus is what you see in God the Father.

- *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

I do not think that it is possible to read this and still miss the point that Jesus is God. He created all things, even the angelic hosts according to their ranks. All things were created by him and for him. You were created by Jesus and you exist for him. And yet this is he who died for you so that you may live.

There are many other scriptures that reveal the Deity of Christ Jesus, but I suppose that these should be sufficient for you to believe. These scriptures are given to you so that you may obtain the knowledge of the Son of God, not just knowledge about him.

These are given so that you will know him personally and render to him the honor, worship and the adoration due to him. It is important for you to have the correct knowledge of him so that you can have a proper relationship with him. Read the same passage of scripture that is above and meditate on it. Read it from your own bible and you will surely be blessed by it. Pray that the Lord would reveal himself to you through his word.

The Lord Jesus is not in competition with God the Father. The Father is pleased when we honor the Son. The Father is greater than the Son but he has given the Son an equal position with him. The Son humbled himself and did not take equality with God as something to be grasped. He humbled himself and became a man and therefore God exalted him and gave him a Name that is above every name. Jesus is superior to all.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

- Philippians 2:5-8, KJV

Chapter Two

The Suffering of the Christ

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
– Philippians 2:7-8, KJV

Let me open this chapter by lamenting at my inadequacy in communicating this truth. I have read books in addition to the scriptures concerning the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ, and I haven't found the vocabulary to communicate the revelation I have of his suffering. I know that I don't have a deep enough revelation in this, and yet it is one of the greatest treasures of wisdom. I was even tempted to completely exclude this chapter, fearing that I might belittle the sacrifice of the Lord to some of the readers, because of my insufficiency to communicate the suffering that the Lord Jesus went through, from Bethlehem to Golgotha.

You would think that it ended in Calvary, but no. The Son of God is still suffering to this very point. He is rejected by those he laid down his life for. He desires to help man but man rejects him. He has to watch them suffer every day over things that he paid a dear price to set them free from. He has to watch people die and go to hell having rejected the sacrifice he made for them. He knows every murder, every abortion, rape, the bitterness of every heart, the pain of every soul – saved or unsaved, he loves them all and therefore feels pain for them all.

He died for the murderers and he die for their victims. He desires to save both the abusers and their victims. It is definitely not easy being

God. Love makes him vulnerable. And yet his love is greater than what any of us understands. Imagine the pain that is felt by a parent when their child is sick.

They even wish to take their child's place and be sick, if that would heal their child and release them from pain. Jesus did exactly that. He took our sickness so that we may not be sick anymore, and his wounds became the cure to all sickness and disease. It is like going to the cross again for the Lord to see people sick. He hates sickness. That is why he gave us power to heal all sickness and disease and to even raise the dead. If we do not use this power, then it is the same as saying that the Lord took those stripes on his back in vain.

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
- 1 Peter 2:24, KJV

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.
- Isaiah 53:4-5, KJV

Imagine the pain that is felt by the parent when their child is wasting away on drugs. Imagine watching them wasting away to the point of their death. The poor parent would try everything in their power to help their child. They would try to the point where they give up and just carry the pain and grief in their heart, mourning over their loss.

Let me bring to your attention that the pain that they feel for their child, is nothing compared to what the Lord Jesus feels. The Lord feels pain because of what they are going through as parents, he desires to help them, but sometimes those he sends to help them, refuse the Lord.

You would be surprised how numerous are the people who run from their calling, and those who are doing things their own way, and still a vast majority who just neglect the Lord and live for themselves, (This too adds to the sorrow of the Son of God). The Lord also feels pain because of their child whom he died for that has been stolen away by drugs. The Lord never stops seeking after the lost sheep. In most cases, the Lord is rejected by those who need him the most. It hurts him.

The bitterness of every heart. The story and the pain of every victim. The rejection, the poverty, murder, rape, abortion, accidents, robbery, betrayal, drug abuse, physical abuse, hatred, anger etc. Jesus knows it all and he grieves over it all. There are billions of us and the Lord Jesus knows each one of us, he is sensitive to the pain of us all.

He died to destroy these works of Satan, and gave us, his disciples the commission to do this work. His pain goes as far as being rejected in his own household by those he redeemed. Many are called to ministry but they wouldn't go because of many selfish reasons. People want to be great achievers on earth, they don't care about the Son of God. They want to live for themselves, they only need him to make it to heaven. It is not a new thing, the Lord has been crying about this since the days of the early church.

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. - Philippians 2:19-21, KJV

A Divine experience

Let me share with you the story of how God called me to ministry. It had not been more than three months after I was born again when God called me to ministry. I was a young convert who was madly in love with God but I didn't know much about Christianity and the great commission.

I had just been baptized in the Holy Spirit and I didn't understand much about the baptism either. I was not even aware that God would be interested in speaking to me directly, didn't recognize myself as someone who might have any gift.

One evening we were all praying in one of the services that we had every evening during the week. I didn't have much to say to the Lord so I finished praying while others were still praying and so I kept my eyes closed. While my eyes were closed like that I heard a voice speaking in my heart that I knew was not mine. The Voice said to me, *"Kneel down and cry."* I responded to it by saying, "No, I wouldn't cry, for why would I cry? But I will do that which I can, I will kneel," and so I did.


When I knelt I felt great sorrow and anguish such as I have never felt before. Nobody who is alive today can carry that much and still live. The pain in my heart was very deep that I immediately began weeping bitterly prostrated on the ground. The Voice began explaining to me what was happening to me,

"This is but a tiny portion of Jesus' heart because of the souls that die and go to hell every day. There are people here in this congregation whom God has put it in their hearts to go and preach the gospel and save souls and yet they see their jobs as more important than doing that, you are one of them! Now rise up and tell this congregation what I told you, and cry before them."

Immediately after that my heart was normal again, I still felt the sorrow but it was not overwhelming anymore. I never will forget that experience. I cannot imagine how anyone can carry so much pain and live, and yet the Son of God carries so much more than I tasted. How deeply the Lord cares for the lost! I began to understand why there is great joy in heaven over one soul that repents. Mankind is God's greatest desire and sadly man is too blind to see it.

Is it fair, how we spend a vast amount of time seeking knowledge of the scriptures, but never acquiring the knowledge of the Son of God? The scriptures testify about him, and yet we reject who he truly is and deny him his needs. God is love, and like anyone who loves, God can be hurt, and he actually feels pain. When you reject God it hurts him. When you fall into the hands of Satan and become his prey, it hurts God. When you are in pain, it hurts God. He is not numb and insensitive towards your pain. He is constantly watching over you because he cares. His ear is always listening to your cries, but sadly most don't cry to him, they rather complain against him.

The Lord doesn't really talk much about his pain, at least not to me. He does however, talk to me about his love. And a person who loves as dearly as he does, hurts even deeper when he is rejected. Yet the Lord never stops pursuing those he loves. He doesn't quit. He is often rejected by his own ministers and neglected by those of his own house.

 **But He made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant**

Who would have thought that God could be so humble? Who would have thought of God as a servant? But Jesus made himself of no reputation and took upon himself a form of a servant. Since the scriptures tell us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever, that means that Jesus is still serving man. He did not serve so that man would marvel, he served because he loved and cared. He still loves and he still cares, and therefore he continues to serve.

Relentlessly he loves us, in spite of our weaknesses and the rejection we often give him. Patiently he serves us, doing for us things that we don't even get to thank him for. He watches over us even in our sleep. We seek glory for his name and all he seeks for us is love, joy, peace, unity, welfare, healing, prosperity, deliverance, completion, and all the good things that we have never dreamed of.

For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

- Isaiah 53:2-3, KJV

Would you not say that the Lord is still despised and rejected by many? How many people blame God for their tragedies? How many people hate God because they hold him responsible for their losses? And yet all he ever wanted to do is to show them how good he is, how loving and forgiving he is. The cross of Christ should be a message of hope and love and victory for mankind, but the devil has blinded the minds of people so that they may not see the goodness of God. They follow their evil passions, so desperate for happiness and comfort, they easily give in to the devil's traps and forfeit their souls.

Nobody likes rejection, not even the Lord. Rejection hurts, it hurts even God. Have we not hear him lamenting over his losses? If any other messages were not loud enough to express the pain of God, the cross should be. If he would prefer the cross than to lose us, then the pain of losing us must have been greater than the cross. Jesus did not go to the cross for a show, he went there to save man. Had there been another way through which man could be saved, the Son of God would have took it when he agonized at Gethsemane as he prayed to the Father.

And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- Luke 22:41-44, KJV

Do you get a picture of that? That is a picture of somebody who is in pain. The Son of God is fully aware of all the pain he has to endure in order to atone for our sins. Having become a man, he has been subjected to the weaknesses of mankind. He has to die. He has to yield to death or lose man whom he dearly loves, forever. He has all the power to save himself but he must resist the temptation to use it should the temptation arise.

He has to endure as the Cato-nine-tails lacerate his body, while soldiers who are beating him laugh at him enjoying every moment of his suffering. Was it not for them that he was laying his life down? He has to carry his cross while he bleeds to wash my sins. The pain he endured is unimaginable, and yet this is he to whom the angels sang as he stretched the foundations of the earth.

Who [Jesus] in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him
- Hebrews 5:7-9, KJV

Such was the life of the Son of God. He willfully took the place of sinners and suffered in their place. He atoned for their sins through his suffering and yet they rejected him. He genuinely loved us even unto death in spite of our contemptuous treatment toward him. We are the ones who brought evil into the world that he created perfect, and many still continue to do so with passion. We corrupted everything, even nature itself, by allowing Satan to dominate us through submitting to his evil desires, and yet God freely forgave us through the sacrifice of Christ.

The Cross

How can we close this discussion without speaking about the cross? It is said to be the cruelest death. I fail even to imagine just the pain of hanging on the cross, but when he hung on that cross, Jesus did not only feel the pain of the nails and lacerations on his back. He was rejected by man and he became sin, the very thing that God loathes. He became a curse and he took upon himself all our grief.

When they laid him on that cross and hammered nails to pierce through his hands, the weight of his whole body was to rest on his hands through these nails. The pain in his hands will be excruciating and unbearable. While he hangs through the nails in his hands, it will become difficult to breathe, and therefore as an act of cruelty, they nailed his feet to the cross as well.

This was an act of cruelty because, death on the cross is normally caused by suffocation, and that is why when they wanted to put an end to their victims' misery, they simply broke their legs. When they hung people on the cross, they didn't stretch their legs because they wanted them to be able to use their legs to lift up their bodies that they may breathe. They wanted them to die a slow and a painful death. Such was the case with the Lord.

When the pain becomes unbearable in his hands and when he begins to suffocate, he would lift his body through his feet just so he would breathe, and relieve his hands from the unbearable pain that is becoming more and more intense as the whole weight of his body is supported by his nailed hands.

The weight of his entire body will then be supported by his feet through the nail in his feet. The pain he would have to endure is unimaginable, and eventually he will have to relieve his feet again and the excruciating pain becomes more and more intense. As he keeps on repeating this cycle over and over, moving his body up to relieve his hands, and letting it lose to relieve his feet, his lacerated back will be heaved on the surface of the wooden cross, causing him immense pain. His head is pierced with thorns and he is in serious pain.

Such was the death of the Son of God to redeem man. I simply cannot communicate in words the pain that the Son of God endured for me, nor can I fully understand it. He suffered, and died a very cruel death. All the time he was hanging on that cross he had the power to save himself but he obeyed God to the point of death. He submissively laid down his life for sinners.

Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?
- Matthew 26:52-54, KJV

He could have decided to quit. His Father was not going to condemn him for it. He did it out of love not under compulsion. Both he and God the Father were saving the world through his sacrifice. He bled for us. He knew that he could ask his Father for help and find it. He could call more than a twelve legion of angels, but he didn't.

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. - Philippians 2:8, KJV

He did not take the opportunity to save himself, but submitted himself to suffering in order to save you. When it was either him or you, the Son of God chose you in spite of the pain he had to endure. He loved you more than his own life. He obeyed to the point of death.

Chapter Three

He became a man

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
- Philippians 2:5-8, KJV

The Son of God became a man out of necessity. The words “and was made in the likeness of men,” do not contradict with the truth that man was created in the image and likeness of God. I will shortly elaborate on this. Jesus was made in the likeness of men because man was no longer in the likeness of God, and God had to take their form in order to save them.

He had to become a man in order to save man. Even though that would mean being lower than the angels and the principalities, and all the celestials, he accepted it. He made himself of no reputation and took upon himself a form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men. He died as a man and resurrected as a man. God became a man for us, and he is still a man to this very day, and yes for all eternity, Jesus will be a man. This does not mean that he is now less than God.

For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power
- Colossians 2:9-10, KJV

The fullness of God dwells in him. He is God in his fullness and is one with trinity. He is superior to the angels and he has supreme authority

over all. At his Name, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that he is Lord. Not only in this age has he inherited this authority, but also in the ages to come. But when the angels behold him today, the Eternal One, he is a man and he still has the scars from the wounds he suffered when he atoned for his most valued possession – man.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus
– 1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

– Hebrews 2:9-10, KJV

The Son of God became a little lower than angels when he took upon himself a form of a man, and he was subjected to death so that, by the grace of God he might taste death for us. What great love and kindness God showed us in Christ! He brought us to glory through his suffering. It was necessary for him to become like us and to be tempted like us, but live a perfect life that he may become the captain of our salvation. He paid the price.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

– Hebrews 2:14-18, KJV

It is clear from the above passage that prior to coming to earth, the Son of God was not in a form of a man. He took on him not the nature of angels but the seed of Abraham (man). He did not take the nature of angels because it is not angels that he helped – although they too sinned, but he chose to save mankind, therefore He was made to be like his brethren. Such is the love and the sacrifice God made for us. He became like us, and was tempted like us so that he will be able to help us when we are being tempted. God is good!

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. – Hebrews 4:15-16, KJV

God became like us and he understands all that we go through. He sympathizes with us, touched with the feeling of our infirmity and suffering. This should give us confidence to draw near to him for help, for fellowship and for communion, even on our worst days. There is no greater love than is found in God. There is no greater display of God's love than the Lord Jesus Christ! He became a man, just for us. He gave himself up for sinners. This is not an easy pill to swallow because of man's many prejudices about God. We are often blinded by our own prejudices from the truth about God.

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

– Revelation 1:12-18 ESV

Above is the appearance of the Son of God in his glory in a vision that he gave to John the apostle. As I explained earlier that the Lord is not less than God because of taking the form of man upon himself. He is God in all his glory. The angels worship him and every knee will bow to him. Although he was dead, he conquered death for us all and now he is the source of eternal life and peace. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last. He is the first before all creation and he is the last Adam. He is the firstborn from the dead and he is preeminent in all things.

In the image of God

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. - Genesis 1:27, KJV

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him - Colossians 3:10, KJV

Man was created in the image of God, both man and woman was created in the image of God. Does this refer to their physical structure or to the fact that man is threefold even as God is threefold? Man is composed of spirit, soul and body, and God in Trinity is The Father, the Son and The Spirit. Man was not made in the image of God according to his physical structure because God is a Spirit - John 4:24, and he doesn't have the features of man. By becoming a man, the Lord Jesus took the form of man - that which he was not. This is why the scripture repeatedly proclaim that he became a man, he was made flesh, he took upon himself the form of men etc. When it is said that you have become something, it means that in your former state you were not that thing.

What does it mean to be in the image of God? Perhaps the answer is right before us. Let us start by what the image of God looks like. The scriptures tell us that the Lord Jesus is the image of God, the express image of his person. Follow with me as we look through the eyes of the scriptures.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- Colossians 1:15, ESV

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.
- Hebrews 1:3, NIV

Since Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the exact representation of his being (express image of his person - KJV), then this means that we know what the image of God is like - for we know Jesus. If we want to know therefore what man was originally created to be, we must look at the Lord Jesus Christ. Man was created in the image of God but now he has to be renewed through knowledge back to that image, after they are born again.

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him
- Colossians 3:10, KJV

There are too many things in man that we know clearly that they are not a reflection of the nature of God. We cannot say that man is the image of God, because the image is a reflection of the true form. If man reflects what is not in God then he is not the image of God, but Jesus is. For this reason we are being renewed to be like Jesus. We are being restored into the image of God.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.
- 2 Corinthians 3:18, KJV

The more we look unto the Lord Jesus Christ without the veils of deception and man's prejudices, is the more we become like him.

And since Jesus is the image of God, this means that we are only now becoming the image of God. The above scripture says that we are being changed into the same image of Christ from glory to glory.

This transformation will happen until we completely reflect the glory of God. In our spirit we are already perfect, but the same is not yet true of our souls and our bodies. You will further understand this as you continue reading this book.

The Lord Jesus took the form of man but he was not made in the image of man. You cannot find any scripture that says that. The fact that Jesus took upon himself the form of man does not contradict the fact that he was the image of God and still is. Both are true. I believe that I have made this clear through what I have shared.

Saving

The

Spirit

Chapter Four

Saving the Spirit

A done deal

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

- Hebrews 10:12-14, KJV

Salvation in our spirit is complete. We cannot work for it, nor add to it because it has already been completed, and has been given to us freely. We have been saved by grace through faith and we have been created anew in our spirit. In this chapter we will look at many scriptures that talk about the salvation of our spirit. Your spirit is the only part of you that has been redeemed completely, unlike your soul and body. If you are born again, your spirit is completely rid of sin nature and is incapable of sinning. If you walk by the spirit you are guaranteed to please God. This is because your spirit is incapable of sinning, it is sealed by the Holy Spirit. Congratulations! One third of you is already perfect, and the salvation of your soul is in progress – your soul is being saved.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

- Romans 8:10-11, KJV

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

- Romans 8:13, KJV

We shall come back to these scriptures and explain them. Stay with me as we feast from our opening scripture first. By a single sacrifice offered once for all time, Christ perfected you forever, according to the passage of scripture in Hebrews 10 wherein our opening text was extracted. The bible says that Christ has perfected you forever – meaning you are always perfect before God.

But how can this be? You and I know very well that you still sin every day no matter how hard you try not to, and it doesn't look like you are going to have total victory and become perfect like Christ any time soon. You are very much engaged in a struggle. Nevertheless, the sacred writings declare you perfect, not perfect just for a little while, but perfect forever. I know that this may sound too good to be true, so let us take another scripture with this one, so that we can have a good ground to stand on as we deliberate this point.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

- Colossians 1:21-22, ESV

Again the above scripture says that you are presented before God, holy and blameless and above all reproach. That is what you are before God. You are perfect. This is not true of your soul because your mind is not perfect and your body is still full of corruption. This is true only of your spirit at the moment. Let us take this a little deeper.

New creation

You are perfect in your spirit and are incapable of sinning because this is what Christ created you to be. He created you in true holiness and righteousness and then he sealed your spirit by the Holy Spirit. You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Look with me at these Scriptures while mindful of the point that I am communicating here.

You are new creation:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- 2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

Created in true holiness and righteousness:

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

- Ephesians 4:24, KJV

Sealed by the Holy Spirit:

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise

- Ephesians 1:13, KJV

You are one spirit with the Lord:

But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

You are as Jesus is in your spirit:

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

- 1 John 4:17, KJV

The scriptures that are quoted above are a few of the many scriptures that can help you understand the first step of our salvation – the salvation of our spirit. A man cannot enter the kingdom of God unless he is born again. Man must be created anew first in order to have a place in God's new creation. In the beginning God created everything and the last thing he created was man. Man fell into sin and God was deeply grieved. He sent his Son to redeem man and the Lord Jesus succeeded. Now God has promised that he is making new everything.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

– Revelation 21:1-5, KJV

In this process God begins by creating man first, as I have already quoted:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

– 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV

The part of you that is already complete in this process is your spirit. When we get to the discussion about the salvation of the soul you will understand more of what I am saying now. Your spirit is created in true righteousness and holiness and cannot be contaminated by sin. The scripture teach that if we live by the spirit we will destroy the works of the flesh. Our spirit is one with the Holy Spirit, and living by the spirit (our born again spirit), is the same as living by the Spirit (the Holy Spirit), for we have become one with Him and we have been sealed by Him.

No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.

– 1 John 3:9 ESV

Sin is the work of the flesh and not of the spirit. This is important to understand, because understanding this is what gives us victory over the weakness of the flesh. God condemned (confined) sin in the flesh.

Let us look at another scripture that we give more light into this.

For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh
- Romans 8:3, KJV

In your flesh there is still corruption but it shall not remain there. You are now being renewed to the image of your Creator. You have been given victory over sin (that is in still your flesh) through the Spirit who is Life (in your spirit). If you live by the spirit you will inevitably produce the fruits of the Spirit, and if you walk by the flesh you will inevitably yield fruit from the corruption of your flesh. Flesh is your old corrupted nature and the spirit is new creation, created in true righteousness and holiness. Please peruse and meditate on the below scriptures:

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. - Galatians 5:16-25 ESV

Your spirit cannot by any chance produce the works of the flesh, and the flesh cannot produce the fruits of the spirit. The flesh however, is very proud and exceedingly corrupt and it often endeavor to assume the position of the spirit.

The flesh can do good works before men and even boast about it, but before God, those good works are like filthy rags. God loathes the works of the flesh, and no matter how good those works may appear to be, they are full of sin and death. Is it not evident that men have planted and filled churches by the strength of the flesh? The flesh is proud and it does not depend on God. It cannot wait for God and it definitely cannot please him.

You were dead

Prior to receiving salvation through Christ Jesus, we were all dead to God. We all died in Adam, and in him we were all born under sin, separated from God. We could not have a relationship with God. Our very nature was at enmity with him. We were following the ruler of this world like the rest of mankind. But now God has made us alive with Christ Jesus so that we may bear fruit for God. Your spirit was dead. By death I do not mean it was dormant or inactive. Death is separation from God who is the source of life. Everyone who is not born again is dead – separated from the Life of God, our Lord Jesus Christ who is himself the Life.

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world,
according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh
in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our
conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of
the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even
as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he
loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with
Christ, by grace ye are saved

- Ephesians 2:1-5, KJV

Death entered the world through one man and then it spread to all men because all men sinned. But when the Lord Jesus Christ came, he conquered death because he alone did not sin.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin;
and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned

- Romans 5:12, KJV

But even when we were dead in sins, God made us alive together with Christ. The Lord Jesus wrought victory for us over death and brought us near to God, so nigh that we became one with God in Him. If you are born again, you spirit is one with God right this very moment. God will never leave you, you are his only prized possession.

Preeminence of the spirit

You may not feel like this is true. That is alright because you are not called to walk by the senses of the body, nor the emotions of the soul, but you are called to walk by the spirit. This means that your feelings are not a validation that God is with you, nor the absence thereof a warning that he has left you. God is with you on the day you feel like he is a million miles away, the same way he was with you on the day you felt like you can reach out your hand and touch him. Never rely on feelings. Feelings are a thing of the body not the spirit.

You may have heard someone saying that they feel something in their spirit. Do not let the vocabulary of men confuse you. You can know things through your spirit, and if your spirit is functional, you must. This kind of knowledge comes through intuition not through the sense. Though someone may say that they feel, it is not a feeling, it is intuitive perception. The right way to put it may be that they discern through their spirit, not that they feel. Once this intuitive knowledge is received, the body may start sensing something corresponding with what is perceived through the spirit's intuition, or sometimes the body may sense/feel nothing at all. You don't need the body to validate spiritual experiences.

You can know by the spirit that an angel has entered the room, and know exactly where it is standing and what it came to do, without feeling anything of its divine presence in your body senses. You can know that you have been healed of something and still feel no change in your body. You can know things by the spirit that are foreign to the body and mind. Presence or lack of a feeling does not prove spiritual things.

You can know people's thoughts, you can perceive their destinies, you can know whether they are good or bad company without having any background information about them. Such knowledge comes through the spirit's intuition.

If you are a person who rely on feelings and emotions to validate the things of the spirit, you cannot walk by the spirit. And it won't be long before your soul usurp the place of the spirit and render your spirit passive. Satan can give you feelings and emotional experiences, he loves doing that to entice people to sin. A feeling must be tested and validated by the spirit but the things of the spirit are never to be validated by feelings of the body or emotions of the soul. The spirit is preeminent. Those who seek to walk by the spirit must understand such things because the enemy can rob you if you are ignorant of his schemes.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

We all have both the natural and spirit man. Sometimes the scriptures may call our spirit man; the new man, and our natural man; the old man. We all must learn to put on the new man and take off the old man. We must deny the natural man and live by the spirit man – who we have been created to be in Christ. The natural man cannot know the things of the spirit, he does not receive them because they are folly to him. Such things are spiritually discerned, and the only thing you can use to test spiritual experiences are the scriptures. Your experiences must be validated through the scriptures not feelings or the knowledge of your mind.

Very often, people receive messages from God and get excited while they are receiving such messages. But it is not after long that their excitement turns to dread, as they begin to doubt if such messages were from God, or that God has ever spoken to them at all. What causes this? This happens because they give the natural man an opportunity to partake in the things of the spirit. They begin to seek validation from the flesh. Your natural man cannot judge your spirit man, because the spirit is preeminent and cannot be judged by anyone.

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. - 1 Corinthians 2:15-16, KJV

A man who walk by the spirit or, he that is spiritual judge all things, but he himself is judged by no man. This is not babies stuff. This is for people who are mature in the Lord, who no longer rely on guidance of men because they are led by the Spirit. Many who are ready for this level have not entered it because they are afraid of it, because they have seen and experienced its dangers. The more you mature in walking after the spirit is the more cautious you become.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. - Hebrews 5:13-14, KJV

Maturity comes through acting on the word of God. The more you act on the word of God is the more skillful you become with it. He who is faithful in little things will be trusted with big things. Those who quickly become radical doers of the word of God mature quickly.

Their obedience to the word of God facilitates their maturity, and they learn by experience to discern both good and evil.

We all have access to the mind of Christ because we are all joined to the Lord through the Holy Spirit, but not all of us have actually accessed and relied on it. It requires maturity to do such because the natural man does not receive the things of God. Those who are in the flesh cannot discern the mind of Christ. It is folly to them.

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

- Romans 8:10-11, KJV

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

- Romans 8:13, KJV

There is still death in your corrupt flesh. Your body is still dead and indeed it cannot be saved. I will explain this clearly when we get to the discussion: *saving the body*. What is important to understand at the moment is that both life and death dwells in you right now. In your flesh there is death and if you live by it you will yield this death, but in your spirit there is life, and life is greater than death. If you live by the spirit you will overcome the death that is in your flesh and this is the essence of the salvation of your soul.

The life of God that is already in your spirit must permeate your soul and body, wherein there is death. Since you are in Christ, although the body is dead because of the sin nature inherited by the natural man from Adam, the spirit is life because of righteousness in which your spirit is created. Since the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is in you, he will give life to your mortal bodies. There is no Christian life without walking by the spirit. It should be everyone's goal to walk by the spirit. This is what everyone must pursue with all their might. Study the scriptures, read books, listen to sermons, act on the word of God and seek maturity, your life depends on it.

For God is a Spirit

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.
- John 4:24, KJV

They that worship God must worship him in spirit and in truth, for such are the worshipers whom the Father seeks. God himself is a Spirit and he seeks a spirit to Spirit fellowship with you. Jesus does not live in your house, he lives in you. He is not your roommate, he is one with you in your spirit. If by the spirit, you subdue your flesh, you will have fellowship with the Son of God. Nothing can be near to you as the Lord Jesus Christ is right now. This is reality but it is only enlightened to you when you begin walking by the spirit and not the mind or by relying on body senses.

You should not approach God on the bases of who you are in the flesh, no matter how pleased you are with yourself. Your flesh is corrupt and there is nothing in there that can please God. Also, if you are displeased with your flesh, do not try to come to God with fear and trembling, lamenting over your depravity because God has made you perfect in his sight. Nothing good dwells in your flesh and God knows this. That is why God wants you to worship him in spirit because therein you are perfect and blameless.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
- Romans 7:18, KJV

God does not count righteousness to you because of what you have done or what you have not done. He does not evaluate your performance in order to count you righteous. He has already counted you righteous through the sacrifice of Christ. He has given you the gift of righteousness. God is also not counting your sins against you because he is looking at you in the spirit that He has created in true righteousness and holiness.

Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin. - Romans 4:6-8, KJV

You are the man that David wrote about under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. You are the man unto whom **God imputeth righteousness without works**, and you are the man to whom **the Lord will not impute sin**. You are the blessed of God. Your sins are covered and you can enter with boldness into the very presence of God at any time and get God's undivided attention and affection. Such is his love for you. Right now in your spirit is the Lord God. You don't have to feel him, you simply have to be aware that he is there and at any time worship him. He is not far, he always hears you, and above all, he is in your with great longing and desire for your attention and affection.

All of God's creation marvel at the love with which God has love you. And very often, all of creation is shocked at the coldness of your heart towards the One who has given himself to you like this. Nothing good has he withheld from you. There is nothing that he has not given you. He gave you the earth to govern. He gave you the life of his Son.

He gave you the Holy Spirit and He gave himself to you as a Father. All of creation longs for what you have and yet it has been given to you, not to them. Angels are ministering spirits for your sake. You are an heir with the Lord Jesus Christ. You are to divide inheritance with God. Do you understand what I am saying here? If you don't, let me put it rather simpler for you; God loves you dearly!

Chapter Five

Our response

Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

– Philippians 4:4, KJV

Now we come face to face with the question; “how must we respond to the salvation that pertains to our spirit?” We have already established that you cannot add anything to what God has done in your spirit, your spirit is created perfect, in true righteousness and holiness according to Ephesians 4:24. You can only grow in knowledge of who you are in your spirit, which is necessary, but you cannot improve on who you are in your spirit, you are too awesome.

There is no amount of scripture reading you can do to improve your spirit, nor is there any amount of prayer and fasting that can help you achieve this, because it’s already done. You are God’s masterpiece created in Christ Jesus.

To receive and walk in this salvation, you simply have to believe the gospel. This salvation does not come through your good works, it comes through believing the good news of the grace of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. When you understand and receive the good news of this salvation, and your eyes are open to know who God has created you to be in Christ, you cannot help but rejoice greatly in the Lord, and relentlessly offer praises and thanksgiving to the Father of spirits, who redeemed you through the death of his Son.

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. – Philippians 3:1, KJV

When you understand that your salvation is a gift from God that is undeserved and when you understand the promises that you have come to receive in Christ Jesus, when you understand that you have obtained an inheritance in Christ Jesus, you cannot help but rejoice. Have you ever noticed the newly converted people? Ever noticed how happy they are? They are full of joy because they understand that they have been forgiven their sins and that they are acceptable to God. They rejoice in their salvation. Nobody should lose that joy, because their salvation is eternal. We have been redeemed eternally and we have been made perfect forever by one sacrifice. Look at the below scriptures:

Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.
– Hebrews 9:12, KJV

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.
– Hebrews 10:12-14, KJV

This is one of the reasons why we should always be filled with joy. We are in a safe place and we will be there forever, provided that we continue in our faith, believing the gospel through which we are saved. We are not at a brink of losing our salvation. In addition to it, are the many wonderful promises, and no matter how numerous they are, in Christ they are all yes and amen.

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.
– 2 Corinthians 1:20, KJV

Don't try to earn it

Many fall into such a deadly peril after receiving God's free gift. They try to be worthy of the gift and they take it upon themselves to make themselves worthy. They begin to think that their salvation is a result of God's mercy plus their good works. Because of this, they engage in a fierce battle with sin in their flesh instead of learning to walk by the spirit. Instead of embracing the gift of righteousness, they resort to self-righteousness.

They try to be righteous through their own good deeds, and they hope that their good deeds will overshadow their evil deeds. They are ignorant of the fact that, it is what they are doing strengthens sin. Salvation is a thing of the spirit that will forever be estranged to the flesh. The flesh cannot be saved, neither can it contribute to man's salvation. The one thing that one must learn to do is after receiving salvation is; walking by the spirit. But instead, many try to tame the flesh in spite of the command to kill it.

This happens because a lot of people are not familiar with the good works of the flesh. All they know are the evil deeds of the flesh, so when the flesh performs good works, they engage it instead of killing it. Let us look at the works of the flesh that can be mistaken as good works acceptable to God.

Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith

- Philippians 3:4-9, KJV

The Apostle Paul here speaks about his own merits, the things that he has achieved and he calls all these the works of the flesh. They are his own achievements, not accomplished in the Spirit. What do I mean by, “not accomplished in the Spirit?” I mean that it is not accomplished through the power of the word of God. The Lord Jesus said that the words he spoke were spirit and they were life.

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. – John 6:63, KJV

If the words are spirit, therefore, walking by the revelation of the word of God is walking after the Spirit. There is a thin line between walking by the written code and walking by the Spirit. The bible is given to lead you to the Person of Christ. You must be led by the Holy Spirit and not make the New Testament another book of the Law of commandments. Everything that you do must come from the word of God being quickened by the Holy Spirit to you. Be careful not to worship doctrines and reject the Lord of the doctrines.

If you look carefully at the above scripture text from Philippians chapter three, Paul mentions that according to the righteousness of the Law, he was blameless – “**Touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**” This means he was a pious man. He was righteous before man but before God he was a stench in his nostrils. God abhorred his righteousness because it was the work of the flesh. You can be righteous before man and still be an abomination to the Lord. The only works of righteousness that justifies man are the works of Christ.

The Pharisees also fell into the same pit of self-righteousness and boasting on their good works. Their boasting was in the Law, because they thought they have done better than most in keeping the Law. Little did they know that the flesh cannot keep the Law of God, instead it would turn it into a tradition and drive you further away from the true law.

Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.
- Matthew 6:1 ESV

Did you catch that? Doing righteous acts in order to be seen by men will make you lose your reward. Why is that? Because only the flesh will drive you to do that. The flesh likes boasting and it certainly likes to be seen. Doing righteous works before men is not sin, but doing righteous works before men in order to be seen by them is sin. See how thin the line is, between spiritual work and the work of the flesh? The flesh can get involved just through a motive.

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.
- Matthew 6:5, KJV

Again, your prayer can be ruined by a motive. The flesh can inspire you to pray. The flesh can inspire you to give alms. The flesh will push you to make long prayers in public in order to be seen and refuse you when you try to do the same in private. The flesh can entice you to fast in order to obtain right standing with God – something that is the work of Christ alone and can only be received through faith and not fasting. Look at the below scripture:

The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.
- Luke 18:11-14, KJV

A known sinner was justified because he did not try to justify himself by counting the good things that he has done. He did not try to earn God's mercy, he admitted that he was not worthy of it when he asked for it. On the other hand, the Pharisee who esteemed himself pious, was rejected because he thought he could earn God's favor through his good works. What he forgot was that along with the works he considered good were many sins and impure motives. God does not judge like men.

As for the apostle Paul, the flesh inspired him to persecute the church – “as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church.” The flesh can inspire you to go to church and appear more righteous than everyone in your congregation. The flesh can do good works, but God does not accept these works of the flesh. The flesh is evil and nothing good can come from it. The flesh must not be allowed to live or lead man. No matter how good you think you are becoming, never make a mistake of trusting your flesh. Agree with God in saying that there is nothing good in your flesh, and therefore, put it to death daily as you follow the Spirit.

Put no confidence in the flesh, and say with boldness like the apostle Paul that you desire to be found in Christ not having the righteousness of your own that comes from the Law but that which comes from God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith
- Philippians 3:9 KJV

Honor the sacrifice

I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose. - Galatians 2:21 ESV

If the works of the Law – our good works – were enough for us to be saved, then why did Christ come to die for us? If salvation were obtainable through the works of the flesh, then why would God send his Son to die for sinners? Trusting in one's own goodness is an insult to the sacrifice that Christ made for us. If your good works can get you saved, then you don't need Christ and his sacrifice was in vain.

Our response towards the grace of God should be the holy fear towards God and thankfulness because of the sacrifice that he made for us, without which, we could not be saved. Your spirit has been perfected by the works of Christ and you did nothing to help him achieve this. You simply believed and you were saved. None of your works were evaluated in order to grant you this salvation, it came to you as an unmerited gift from God. Let me remind you however, that this is not true of your soul. Your soul is not perfect yet, but you cannot perfect it either. The salvation of your soul is still the work of Christ, as all salvation is.

Boldness

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

- Hebrews 10:19-25, KJV

Because of the sacrifice of Christ, not our good works, we can now come before the throne of God and receive help in our time of need. We can at anytime, anywhere, have fellowship with God, or pray to him for help. We have an assurance that we will always be received and we will always receive help in our time of need. We are commanded to come with boldness, because we enter through the blood of Jesus, the sacrifice that was made by God for us and not our own sacrifice. We put no confidence in our flesh because we know that it contributed nothing to our salvation, nor can it now add to it because it is already complete. Our spirit is new creation and our souls are being renewed while we await the redemption of our bodies on the Day of Christ.

Do not count your shortcomings therefore, and let them keep you from coming before the throne of God with boldness. Do not come with fear and trembling as if God promised you punishment and rejection. Trust in the sacrifice of Christ and enter through the blood of Jesus, the blood through which you have been sanctified and made perfect forever. You have been given grace in Christ to enter with boldness in the throne room of your Father.

Saving

The

Soul

Chapter Six

Saving the soul

Work in progress

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.
- Philippians 2:12-13, KJV

The salvation of your soul is not yet complete, but it is in progress. You are being saved, and in this salvation you have a part to play. You can either slow it down or facilitate the process by cooperating with God. You have to obey God and act on his word, you have to pursue your salvation. Working out your salvation, does not necessarily mean that you are now trying to earn your salvation by virtue, or you are trying to be saved through your own works. It means cooperating with God who is responsible for all the work of salvation. You are saved by grace through faith and faith without works is dead, – we shall explain this in details in the forth coming chapters.

The salvation of your soul will be accomplished by the Spirit of God, and this will leave no room for you to boast. There is no room for the boasting of the flesh as if it has accomplished something for God. The flesh only opposes the work of the Spirit and indeed it cannot contribute anything to it. You cannot save yourself and you cannot help God save you. All you have to do is rebel against your own flesh (your carnal mind and the passions of your body), and against your own (worldly) desires, and put no confidence in yourself.

The Holy Spirit is already at work within you and you must allow him to crucify your flesh. God began the good work in you, and he will bring it to completion. You must trust and lean on him for your salvation, even the salvation of your soul.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ - Philippians 1:6, KJV

God began this good work in your spirit and he is still working on you, he will continue to do so until the Day of Jesus Christ. You simply have to cooperate with him and seek to walk in the grace he has given you in Christ Jesus our Lord. Once you understand the structure of your soul, you will understand exactly what God is working on and why he needs your cooperation. Let me make this clear before we proceed, salvation is the work of the Holy Spirit and is completely impossible without the Holy Spirit.

The opening scripture text quoted above tells us that, it is God who works in us, both to will and to do of his good pleasure. “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” - Philippians 2:13. This means that God works in you to change your will or desires, so that you desire or will those things which please him, the things that will lead you to life and peace. Then he also gives you strength through the Spirit and the authority of his word to do that which pleases him. Even things that seem simple like reading the bible, are to be undertaken under the guidance and the strengthening of the Spirit.

Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 1 Corinthians 1:8-9, KJV

Again, the scriptures affirm that God is at work in our lives. He will confirm us unto the end, that we may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a promise, and all the promises of God are “Yes” in Christ Jesus. God has promised to indorse you until the day of Christ. Since God has already saved you, as the scriptures say that **you have been saved** by grace through faith (see Ephesians 2:8), then why is he still working in you? This is because what he has already achieved in your spirit – perfection, is not yet true of your soul. But the work of Christ and the promises of God have already guaranteed your salvation, though still in progress.

You are being saved

Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

– 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 ESV

You are being saved through the gospel. This truth is not in contradiction with the truth that you have been saved. In the second section of this book, we exhausted the discussion of the salvation of our spirit, and concluded that indeed we have been saved and there is nothing that we can do to add to it, it is already complete. Now however, we are saying that you are being saved and your salvation is not yet complete. The former is true of your spirit, and the later, is true of your soul.

Perhaps we should start by describing the soul before we come to appreciate its salvation. What is our soul being saved from? What would it look like when it has been saved completely? What must we do to cooperate with God in this? What are some of the hindrances to the process? What are the things that slow down the process? Such are the question that we seek to answer in this section of the book to help you best cooperate with God. Much of the pride and boasting comes from the soul, therefore the soul is something to be very careful with.

Human soul

Soul

- Mind
- Emotions
- Will

Your soul is composed of these three faculties. They are separate faculties but they do not function independent of each other, because together they form one soul. For instance; your emotions follow your thoughts, and your will follows your mind. This does not mean that the mind is preeminent or superior to the two. Through the will power, you can decide to change your thoughts, to allow or disallow certain thoughts, and you can even induce your mind to think on certain thoughts. The faculties of the soul are in harmony. In my teaching here, I will focus more on the mind and will.

The mind is like the central processing unit and it inspires decision making, and for this reason we are going to give it a more detailed study. A soulish man makes his decisions according to the leading of his mind. He always follows logic or human reasoning. But a spiritual man makes his decisions on the bases of truth and not feelings or human reasoning. He reasons that the spirit is preeminent and therefore it must be followed even when understanding is unfruitful, or even when logic is against it.

In salvation, God does not get rid of your mind or wipe its memory. You are a new creature in your spirit, but in your mind you still possess the same memories you had prior to being saved. There are still some old patterns of thinking that are not pleasing to God, and they will not disappear overnight.

You are being saved and it will take time to renew your mind, which is herein interpreted as saving your soul. To facilitate this process, you will have to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, and in order to do so, you must understand what is expected of you. In the next chapter we will look at this in close details.

Emotions

There are many believers who give preeminence to their feelings and emotions, and still a vast majority who may not give preeminence but give too much attention to their emotions. Having emotions is not a sinful thing, you were created by God to have them. Emotions are not a result of our corrupt nature, Adam in his perfect state had emotions. The difference now is that the emotions can be manipulated by the devil or even other people to lead you into acting in a certain way.

This happens to an average person almost all the time. Emotions are not something solid, they keep fluctuating based on what you are meditating on. Emotions follow thoughts. The mistake that many believers make, is allowing their emotions dictate to them. This happens because people think that you cannot choose how to feel and you cannot control your emotions, you just have to follow them. This however, is not true. Since you can control your thoughts through will power, you can definitely keep your emotions in check.

You can choose to be happy by thinking on the positive things. You can choose to rejoice in your salvation and find comfort in thinking about how all this suffering is temporary but the joy that has been reserved for us permanent. Meditating on the word of God and counting your blessings can change your mood – which is nothing but emotions. Let me show just two examples of this from scripture, although there are plenty examples. I believe that by studying these you will learn to control your own emotions.

The Lord and the disciples

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

– John 14:1-5 ESV

This was one of the hardest moments for the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember that these men had given up everything to follow him because they believed that he would bring deliverance to Israel against their enemies. They have left their business, left their homes, and followed him. They have been kicked out of synagogues because they followed a man who was said to be a heretic by the religious leaders of the time. Now this person in whom that they had put their trust was telling them that he is going back where he came from. He was telling them that he will be crucified and resurrect, but above all he was going back to the Father, having not delivered Israel from the enemies they supposed he would.

This conversation took place right prior to the crucifixion of the Lord. These men were bound to be emotional. How could they not feel sorrow? A lot was just about to happen, and all of it was going to have a very huge impact in their lives. They have spent three years with the Lord and now he was telling them that he is leaving. A lot was going on in their minds and none of it was giving them butterflies in their stomachs, they were filled with sorrow.

Put yourself in their shoes for a moment. Think about the moment when everything begins to crumble, and you are being told that it's about to get worse. While you are still processing that, you hear these words, "Do not allow your emotions to get the best of you." This is what the Lord Jesus did for his disciples in their moment of crisis and depression, he told them to not let their hearts be troubled. The news that they were receiving were troubling but the Lord is telling them to not give power to their emotions and allow their hearts to be troubled.

He was not being insensitive, he was helping them. They had to shift their paradigm so that they won't be overcome by sadness. He then told them how to do it; **"Believe in God; believe also in me."** Believing is something that you can actively do by acquiring evidence that supports whatever you desire to believe. So at this time, the disciples were to reminisce and ponder over the promises and the goodness of God.

By changing their thoughts from the thoughts of sorrow and how they are going to make it without the Lord, to the thoughts about how God has been faithful and how they have seen miracles and the power of God while they ministered to the Lord, their emotions will change. By considering that they have a home in heaven and the Lord will send them the Holy Spirit, they had to change their paradigm and stop seeing defeat, but begin to see victory in the situation.

The truth is that all of us can change our emotions in the middle of the crisis by changing our thoughts. By taking the promises from the word of God and meditating on them we can receive encouragement and strength from the Holy Spirit. But if we give way to our emotions and let them lead us, we will make decisions that we will later regret.

David

And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. - 1 Samuel 30:3-6 ESV

Another remarkable story is that of David. The man was anointed by Samuel to be king over all Israel in the place of Saul, and it had been years but still he hadn't seen the fulfillment of his calling. Instead of being king, he was a fugitive, running for his life from the very king he was anointed to replace. He spent years running and all this because a prophet came and anointed him to be king.

Now the above story is when David was facing probably the worst time of his life so far. He had lost everything and the men who had devoted themselves to him were speaking of stoning him to death. They had wept until they had no more strength to weep. This was a trying time indeed.

But David took hold of the situation because he changed his emotions by changing his thoughts. David strengthened himself in the Lord his God, he encouraged himself. This is something that we must all do when we are in a crisis and our emotions are trying to run wild with us. At such moment, a majority of people speak unmeaning words and ruin themselves, while others take actions that they will later regret. Many complaints against God are addressed during such times, misguided by temporary emotions.

But by preaching to yourself during such times, you can change your emotions and gain control over them. After strengthening himself in the Lord, David then prayed and inquired of the Lord. I strongly advice that people avoid praying when they are emotional. Better calm your emotions first through meditating on, or speaking the word to yourself out loud, and reminding yourself of the goodness of God, before you come before God in prayer. If the best thing you can do is pray, then let it be the prayer of praise, not of asking or complaining. Through will power you can control your emotions.

Chapter Seven

The Mind

A born again Christian has two minds, namely, **the natural mind** (mind of man) and **the supernatural mind** (the mind of Christ). In this chapter we will discuss both, beginning with the natural mind, and later resorting to the supernatural mind. One mind is of the soul, while the other is of the spirit. We will begin looking at the natural mind of man, as we have already established that it forms a part of the soul. One third of the soul is comprised of the mind, and the mind is one of the key players in identifying self.

A man cannot rise above his mind, as he cannot rise above his knowledge and beliefs. Man is actually said to be who he is in his heart (Proverbs 23:7), which we will later learn that that is who he is in his subconscious mind. Your soul is not saved until your mind is renewed or changed. This is why the salvation of your soul is still in progress, because there are still old patterns of thinking and wrong beliefs and many fallacies in your heart or your subconscious mind. Let me explain what I am saying.

The natural mind of man is in itself divided into two:

- Conscious mind
- Subconscious mind

Conscious mind

The conscious mind can be described as whatever you are currently conscious or aware of. What you are feeling, doing, seeing, touching, experiencing, everything inside of your awareness including; fantasies, perceptions, self-awareness, sensations and thoughts, are all part of your conscious mind. You are conscious or aware of it.

The thoughts and feelings you are experiencing at the moment, and your awareness of your current environment are all part of your conscious experiences. Your conscious mind records what you are conscious or aware of at a given time.

Subconscious mind

The subconscious mind is like a main storage that permanently stores everything that ever happens to you, and its capacity is virtually unlimited. You are not always cautious of every memory but that does not mean that it is not there. Studies in psychology on how the brain works reveal that our experiences shape the way we think and act. Although we do not remember most of our life experiences, the unconscious memories in our head influence 90 to 95% of our behavior.

Your subconscious mind also stores your beliefs system or philosophy, and therefore it regulates your decision making. You truly are defined by who you are in your subconscious mind. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he. Your subconscious mind gives data to your conscious mind for processing before important decisions are made. You cannot decide beyond the knowledge in your subconscious mind. Your subconscious mind also inspires you to take decisions without consciously thinking them through. Your automatic behaviours are the work of your subconscious mind.

Saving the natural mind

From the above discussions you can see that your natural mind is really important and it defines you as a man. Your subconscious mind holds great power over you. You are as good as the decisions you make, and you are limited by the decisions you don't make. What more better way of describing you than your mind?

If the mind is not saved, then man has not been saved. The salvation of your soul therefore is as imperative as the salvation of your spirit.

Although your spirit must assume preeminence, you cannot be defined through your spirit alone. Man is not a spirit. Man is spirit, soul and body. We cannot embrace salvation of the spirit and neglect the salvation of the soul and that of the body as if these were of little or no importance. The people of Israel were saved from Egypt but they couldn't enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief. Beliefs are a thing of the mind and not of the spirit. They were prevented by their unrenewed minds from obtaining the promises of God. The same is true of us. We too are kept from obtaining the promises of God by our minds.

What keeps us from walking after the spirit is the mind. The mind is the reason why we don't see miracles. There are wrong beliefs that each one of us have embraced either consciously or unconsciously, and these beliefs affect our behavior and our decision-making subconsciously. For instance; we have power within us to raise the dead, heal the sick, cast out demons, command the storms, move mountains etc. but we cannot release this power because of our unbelief.

Some believe that these things can only be done by those who have special gifts, while some think that these could only be done by the apostles of the early church. Still some believe that they have this power but they are uncertain about certain things, and because of such doubts, they cannot release the power of God within them even in their time of desperation.

There are many other beliefs that hinder us from being able to release the power that is already in our born again spirit. Wrong beliefs either cripple our faith, or produce wrong faith. Either way, we cannot use wrong ingredients to get the right results. Our minds play a major role in our spiritual life and therefore we can only be transformed by getting our minds renewed, even as the scriptures say.

Renewal of the mind

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. – Romans 12:1-2, KJV

It is imperative that the mind of a believer is renewed. The one and only way through which the soul (mind) of a believer can be saved is renewal, and not recreation like how the spirit is saved. Something that is being renewed is in a process of becoming new and improved. Of the spirit it is said; old things are passed away, behold all things are become new.

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. – 2 Corinthians 5:17, KJV

The same cannot be said of the soul. The mind does not become new in a sense that the old passes away like it happens with the spirit. You still know what you knew before you received salvation, the difference is in your beliefs system and ultimately in your actions or behavior. A believer must renounce his former ways, and seek guidance from God to walk after the new man, created in true righteousness and holiness. The old patterns of thinking must be changed as the mind is being renewed. Therein comes transformation, and the natural mind of man begins to agree with the supernatural mind of the spirit.

For the mind of a believer to be renewed, he must spend time studying the word and making it his personal goal to change his mind. As he does this, he will afford the Holy Spirit an opportunity to work in him, and give him the needed guidance. Nobody teaches better than the Holy Spirit, but one must seek in order to find. Your actions are very important, as they show that you are yearning for the transformation.

Your actions are the expression of your trust in the Lord and a display of the progress in your soul. There is a difference between a person who relies on their intelligence for guidance, and a person who denies their intelligence and count it but dung so that they may receive guidance from the Holy Spirit.

One must trust the Lord for the renewal of his mind, but this does not mean that you will passively wait for the Lord. That which you know to do, do it with the strength from God. Do not follow your wisdom, but also, do not wait passively for the Holy Spirit, because he will not make you do things, rather, he will inspire you to will and to do things, for the good pleasure of God. The Holy Spirit does not cause you to do things through his wisdom, but he gives you wisdom to do things. You must learn to discern the wisdom which is of man and that which comes from the Spirit. Your mind must be renewed.

The supernatural mind of the spirit

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ. - 1 Corinthians 2:16, KJV

In addition to the natural mind, the believer has the mind of Christ. This is true of every believer, and every believer can access the mind of Christ. We have this mind because we have the Spirit of Christ, and in our spirit we are joined to the Lord into one spirit. The Holy Spirit helps us access the mind of Christ. We have received the Spirit of God so that we may access his mind, see the below scripture:

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. - 1 Corinthians 2:11-13, KJV

The above scripture says that the spirit that is in man has access to the mind of that man. The spirit in him knows all things in him, specifically things in his mind. The spirit searches even the deeper things of man. This means that there is no secret hidden from the spirit of man that is in man. The same is true with God. The Spirit of God whom we have received knows all things in God and he reveals these things to us in our spirit. He searches even the deeper things of God and give us access to his mind.

These truths cannot be received through our natural minds because they are spiritually discerned;

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- 1 Corinthians 2:14, KJV

The natural man refers to the natural mind. The natural man cannot receive spiritual things because they are folly to him. These things are taught by the Spirit intuitively directly to the spirit of man. The natural mind also has a role to play, although it does not participate in the reception of these truths, it has to store them as memories. The natural mind does not understand these truths but it has to receive them and accept them as truths to give preeminence to the spirit. For this reason, the mind must be renewed before man can be taught these deep truths.

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:
- 1 Corinthians 2:6, KJV

These truths are taught to the mature, those who have been transformed by the renewal of their minds through studying and practicing the word of God. If the mind of a believer is not renewed, then he misses out on the deeper things of God. This does not mean that he doesn't have the

mind of Christ, he like all other born again believers, has the mind of Christ since he is joined to the Lord, but he simply cannot access it due to his immaturity.

The mind of Spirit whom we have received teaches us all things. But before we can learn the deeper things of God, we must be saved from the corruption and the depravity of our minds. We cannot access our inheritance until we are transformed through the renewal of our minds.

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

- 1 John 2:27, KJV

The anointing whom we have received teaches us all things. The only issue is that we cannot receive teaching from the anointing if our minds have not been renewed. Not that the anointing will refuse to teach us, but we will refuse his teaching because the things that he teaches are spiritually discerned, and they are foolishness to the natural man. How then can we avoid deception and falling away from the truth if we do not abide in his teaching? We will continue to be susceptible to danger if we don't get our minds renewed.

Although we cannot lose our salvation, we can renounce it. The Lord Jesus and the apostles warned about false prophets, deceivers, anti-Christ, demonic spirit who teaches deceptive doctrines, and said that some will turn away from the true faith because of these. This is an indication that falling away is possible. We must hold on to the truth until the end, lest we fall away. It is imperative therefore to get our minds renewed.

How then to renew your mind?

The Lord gave the people of Israel quite a simple strategy when they were in the wilderness, to help them renew their minds. It is so simple that you'd need someone to help you to misunderstand it. The same instruction is repeated throughout the scriptures. If I could put it in one word to make it simple, the word would be: *Repetition*.

And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. – Deuteronomy 6:6-9 ESV

It is that simple. Keep learning and keep repeating what you have learned until it makes an impression in your heart (your subconscious mind). This strategy works more effectively for the beginners in Christ and it does also for the mature. Keep reading your Bible and keep speaking to yourself and to others the words that you have learned. Find someone you can share with. But be sure that it is not someone who is not interested for then you will be engaged in an argument you are not ready for. If you can't find any, there's a friend in your mirror, or just go out and speak to the trees.

The same thing was told to Joshua:

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. – Joshua 1:8 ESV

Joshua was told to keep speaking the words from the book of the Law and to meditate on them day and night. This is the formula for the renewal of your mind. It is quite that simple, you can start today. You must renew your mind, your life depends on it.

Doers of the Word

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- James 1:21-22 ESV

The word of God is what saves your soul. For a transformation to occur in your life, you must receive the word of God. But be careful that you do not become a hearer of the word only without doing what you have heard from the word of God. Doing such will open you to deception. A person who hears the word and not act on it is like a man who looks at himself in a mirror and turns away and forget what he was like. The word of God is a mirror through which you look at your spirit. This is not all it shows however, it also teaches you the truth about your soul and body as well.

The word of God gives you wisdom that is greater than the wisdom of the rulers of this world. The word gives you wisdom that supersedes your natural mind and this is why God has given you access to his mind through the Spirit whom you have received. You have the mind of Christ, but you cannot grow into the maturity that will allow you to access it if you are not a doer of the word. You must be quick to obey the word of God in order to mature quickly and to avoid deception.

Let me just give it to you straight, no one is immune to deception. The person who thinks that they cannot be deceived is already in great danger. The devil is very cunning. The scriptures warn us,

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

- 1 Corinthians 10:12, KJV

Chapter Eight

Works of Faith

There is a difference between the works of faith and the works of the Law. Without the works of faith, your soul cannot make progress in its salvation. Since the salvation of the soul is gradual, it depends on how much effort you put in cooperating with the Holy Spirit. If you do not read the scriptures, if you do not listen to sound teachings, if you do not read relevant books, if you do not do what the word of God teaches you, if you do not deny the flesh its lusts, then your soul will not progress in its salvation. For change to occur in your soul, you must put in some work. These works are called the works of faith, and they are different from the works of the Law or self-righteousness. Let us look at the below passage for illustration.

Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? Was not Abraham our forefather justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works; and the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” – and he was called a friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

– James 2:20-26 ESV

The above scripture makes illustration through two figures of the Old Testament, Abraham and Rahab. These two figures were justified by faith. There is a man named Joseph who is a better example of moral standards than both these two figures. Rahab and Abraham, not only committed immoral sins, they lived in such sins, and yet still they were justified through faith. Rahab was a gentile sinner who was a prostitute.

Prostitution is considered immoral even among pagans, and yet Rahab, a prostitute found favor with God. The bible never mentions that Rahab quit prostitution and she found favor with God, or that when she found favor with God she gave up her sinful lifestyle of prostitution. To this very day the scriptures still call her a prostitute. When Rahab is mentioned in the scriptures, her job title follows quickly. Why is it not just said, "And Rahab was justified by works," instead of saying, "And Rahab the prostitute was justified by works"? Think about this. Why does the scriptures keep reminding us of this woman's sinful lifestyle?

Abraham did many serious mistakes, but the bible calls him the friend of God. Among the things that he did, he married his father's daughter who was born from a different mother. When God gave the Law later on, he said that this was an abomination, but he never rebuked Abraham for it. Instead, God blessed Abraham and his half-sister Sarah with a miracle child, Isaac who was born to them at their old age, when it was impossible for Sarah to conceive.

Abraham and Rahab were not justified through their morality or piety. They were justified by their works of faith. They believed God and acted according to what they believed. They revered God in their hearts in spite of their shortcomings. God did not justify them by their works of righteousness, but by their works of faith. The reason why I am clarifying this point is not to promote sinful living but rather, to teach about the necessity of acting on what you believe from the word of God.

One of the benefits of the covenant that we are in, is that we have victory over sin (sinful – corrupt nature) through our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit whom we have been given. You cannot therefore use Abraham and Rahab as an excuse to indulge sin. They were people of a different time, before the grace of God appeared through our Lord Jesus Christ to deliver us from sin and to cause us to be born again. Our covenant is better and it has better promises.

Indeed we are justified by grace through faith, but our faith must be accompanied by actions that correspond with what we believe for our souls to progress in salvation. Salvation is still a gift from God not because of works.

If you choose that you will not renew your mind, God will not take away salvation from you and disown you. You will continue being his child, but this will have bad consequences on your life and on your relationship with God. The devil may even stand a better chance of causing through you deception, to deny what you have believed and renounce your salvation. An unrenewed mind is a fertile ground for the enemy to plant all kinds of evil works which will turn into actions. This is not how a child of God must live.

Faith without works is dead. If you believe in the grace of God that has been given to us in our Lord Jesus Christ, then your actions will show. Please understand this as necessary for the salvation of your soul. Your soul is being changed but your spirit is already perfect and sealed by the Holy Spirit and cannot be changed. The changes that keep happening to your soul affect your spiritual life but they do not affect your spirit. When you indulge your flesh or live a soulical life, you shut down your spirit and render it passive. Thus you allow the flesh to grow stronger instead of putting it to death.

Switching back to the spirit may not be so easy after indulging the flesh. One may even find that their soul is imitating the spirit because the spirit remains passive. This is hard to discern and may go on for a very long time until it is recognized and corrected. Praying in tongues, fasting and prayer and studying the word can help a believer to quickly recover control for their spirit. I am not teaching on this, I am merely passing through. If you feel like your spirit is passive, do these or ask your pastor or mentor to assist you concerning this problem.

Greater works

The Lord Jesus Christ once told his disciples that his food was to do the works of his Father. These works are the works of faith. They are not the works that earn you salvation, they are works that only those who are already saved can work. We were created for the good works that God prepared beforehand.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for the good works,
which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- Ephesians 2:10 ESV

As we mature in Christ Jesus through knowledge and intimacy with God, we then begin to partake in the affairs of the Kingdom of our Father. Since we are fellow heirs with Christ Jesus, we too are called to walk in the same works that our Lord walked on when he walked the earth, and even greater works than what he did. We do not do these works in order to get saved, but we do these works because we are already saved, and the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit whom we have received. Our Father was pleased to give us the kingdom, and therefore since we have believed, we have received and therefore we act according to what we have believed.

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
- Luke 12:32 KJV

Since we are joint heirs with Christ, we have a responsibility to reign with him. If we do not mature into manhood, we will fail him who laid down his life for our sakes. It is the Lord's desire that we mature into manhood and begin doing the works that he commanded us to do. See the below scriptures.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

- Mark 16:15-18, KJV

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

- John 14:12-14, KJV

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

- John 17:18, KJV

The mandate is very clear for those who believe; they must do the same works that the Lord did. He preached the good news, he forgave sins, he healed the sick, he raised the dead, he cast out demons, he showed mercy and he worked many miracles in response to people's needs. These are the works that we must do. This is why we must cooperate with God through studying and doing the word of God so that we will keep on maturing and be found ready for every good work.

The anchor of the soul

Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument. Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath. God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.
– Hebrews 6:16-20 NIV

Among other things, a soul is like a ship that needs to be anchored, otherwise it will float away. If you do not anchor your soul, it will leave its place of faith. We are saved by hope and hope is what anchors our souls. When we lose hope, we must expect our souls to live its place of faith. The scriptures admonish that we profess our faith with confidence. Our confidence comes from knowing him that promised. Since he is faithful, we eagerly await with confidence the things he promised, the things in which we hope.

And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end
– Hebrews 6:11, KJV

It is not okay to just have a vague and wavering hope. You must have full assurance of hope before your soul can be anchored. When you have assurance of the things you hope for, then you have faith and mountains can begin to move. But without hope, there isn't faith. The bases for our hope is the word of God and the assurance of our hope comes from knowing God.

What does it mean to anchor your soul through hope? Let me make a practical example: Say for instance you are challenged by a sickness that is curable through the means of medicine, but you have a word from God that by the wounds of Jesus you are healed. For you to stand on that word, you will have to anchor your soul in it.

Your soul will quickly wonder away to other alternatives unless you anchor it on the word of God. The word however, only gives you hope that this is true, and that it will actually have impact on your body and eliminate sickness therein. If you are uncertain whether God is willing to heal you, or he wants to heal you later, then your soul will wonder away because there is no assurance of hope.

Miracles don't happen when a soul keeps wondering away from its place of faith. The soul is anchored in its place of faith by full assurance of hope. Faith, is believing with a full heart that God is willing to heal you, because you believe that Jesus paid a dear prize through his wounds that you may be healed, and because sickness and death are the enemies of God and are not part of his kingdom.

You stand on the scriptures therefore and declare that you are healed. Whether pain rises or it subsides or it stops immediately, your faith remains unshaken – meaning, you are not moved on what you hope for, but remain sure of it, whether you feel it, see it, or hear it or you don't.

It takes time for the soul to be anchored in the word of God. It is not something that can be achieved casually. It is something that one must actively pursue. If you wish to believe the word of God and be immovable in your faith, you must spend time studying the word and more time meditating on it and preaching it to yourself. You have to resolve in your heart that you will believe and never let go even if the results don't show. Often times the results won't immediately show. You may at times experience the opposite of what you are believing for. And at that moment, your soul will try to sail away. There and then you will need to anchor it in hope.

Hope is something that you can only see through the eyes of your heart. You study and meditate on the word of God until it paints a picture in your heart. Then you must learn to hold on to the picture that the word of God has painted for you. Learn to hold on to hope. If you can master this, you will see miracles. The word of God is powerful when it is mixed with faith, it can work wonders for you.

But you must know that anchoring the soul is not an easy task. Because of circumstances, the soul keeps searching for other options, as it does not receive spiritual things because they are spiritually discerned.

Hope is a powerful thing. Every one of us can strengthen their cords of hope through studying and meditating on the teachings of the word of God. When you have strengthened your cords, anchoring your soul won't be hard.

*Saving
The
Body*

Chapter Nine

Saving the body

Our glorious end

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in pains of childbirth until now. And not only creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. – Romans 8:22-23 ESV

One day the struggle will end forever, and all the evil and sin in you will be done away with for good. All the corruption will be gone, and you will again walk in the perfection you once knew before Adam ate of the forbidden tree. You will be holy and reflect the image of God as you were originally created to do and to be. You will again reign with God and have that nearness to him without the limitations imposed to you now by the flesh. The Day is coming when you will see the Lord face to face, and on that Day you will be like him because you will see him as he is. What a Day that will be!

No wonder the Apostle writes, “We groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.” Indeed we all look forward to that Day when we will receive new bodies, void of all corruption, but glorified and created in perfection, even as our spirits are. Our salvation will be complete on that Day, and with great shouting and rejoicing we will raise our voices to our God, and give eternal thanks and praises to him. Indeed we rejoice at this very moment in the hope that we have in Christ Jesus, but on that Day, we will not rejoice in hope, we will rejoice in this; that we hoped in the Lord and received the end of our hope – even our salvation.

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ – Philippians 1:6, KJV

The Lord has promised, and we have believed, and therefore we wait eagerly for what was promised to us, for we know him to be faithful that promised. We endure all kinds of persecutions through the strength with which he strengthens us, because we know that the struggle is temporary and the victory belongs to our God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ conquered death, and the Day is nigh when all his enemies will be made his footstool, and death will be the last enemy to be destroyed.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. – 1 Corinthians 15:25-26, KJV

These truths excite me, and my spirit just leaps for joy within me as I ponder over these truths. I want us to look at all that I have said through the scriptures. God has given us such a happy ending, that is incomprehensibly, and unimaginably glorious. He has called us to be heirs with Christ. Do you understand what I have just said? I said God has called us to divide the inheritance with God – the Lord Jesus Christ. He has called us to share in his kingdom. At the moment we have a foretaste of this until we receive our new bodies, and enter into our inheritance with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

– Romans 8:16-17, KJV

The same glory that the Lord Jesus has, is the glory promised to us. Indeed those who hope in such things as this, do keep themselves pure even as he is pure. Our end will be glorious, and we will rejoice greatly in the things we hoped for and the things we endured for the sake of the kingdom.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. – 1 John 3:1-2, KJV

The world does not know us because it does not know God and we are his children. Had they known God they would have known us. What we will be has not yet appeared, but when Christ appears we will appear with him, being like him, because we will see him as he is. We will appear with him in glory.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

– Colossians 3:3-4, KJV

The current state of our body

The apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans chapter eight, that *we groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for the redemption of our bodies*. We groan because of the current state of our bodies because of sin (corruption). But we are not left in despair, for we are not left without a promise concerning the salvation of our bodies as well. The term used for the salvation of our bodies is “redemption – the redemption of our bodies,” because the bodies that we now possess cannot be saved.

But we have new bodies that we are waiting for from our Lord Jesus Christ – the incorruptible bodies. Right at this moment, there is corruption in our bodies, but the Spirit is life because our spirit has already been united with God and is new creation, created in true righteousness and holiness.

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

- Romans 8:9-11, KJV

The above scripture says that our body is dead because of sin (referring to sin nature), but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. Let me explain what that means. When you read the same passage of scripture you will learn that the Apostle Paul here teaches about how the Spirit has set us free from the sin nature that we were born with – inherited from Adam. He says that God confined sin in the flesh. The flesh speaks of your body and your mind that has not been renewed. Sin nature still dwells therein. For this reason we are taught to follow the spirit and not indulge the passions of the body. The body is driven by sin and therefore we cannot follow its passions if we want to please God. Maybe let me show you a few scriptures concerning what I am saying.

Sin condemned in the flesh

For God has done what the Law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh.

- Romans 8:3 ESV

There is a lot that I can say concerning this scripture, but I will try to say as little as I can and stick to the point that I endeavor to make here. The Law failed to make us righteous because of the weakness in our flesh. We could not keep the law because we were in bondage to sin nature that we inherited from Adam. The scriptures therefore speak of the weakness of the law, in that it failed to make us holy. But the truth is that we failed to attain to the standard of the law because of our sinful nature, and therefore, God sent his Son to do that which the law failed to do.

God sent his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. What does that mean? Sinful flesh speaks of your physical body. God sent his Son in the physical body like we sinners have. He condemned/confined sin (sin nature) in the flesh (the body). By creating a new spirit in you, God condemned/restrained sin in the flesh. Sin nature can no longer enter your spirit because it has been sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Your new spirit has been created in true righteousness and holiness. God restricted sin in the flesh. The Day is coming when you will be freed from the flesh as well, and inherit a new body that is free from sin.

Here is a passage of scripture that will give you a clear explanation of what the flesh is. Read it slowly and notice the words on which I make emphasis.

And you were dead in trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience – among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of our body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

– Ephesians 2:1-3 ESV

The passions of our flesh are explained as the desires of the body and mind. This is because, in our body and mind is where sin has been consigned. When you follow the mind and the passions of your body you are bound to sin, and on the contrary, when you follow the spirit, you are bound to please God. Your mind must be renewed and the passions of your body must be denied. Do not indulge your feelings and emotions, but by the spirit, put to death the works of the flesh. The current state of your body is corrupt and that is all it will ever be until the Day of the Lord.

Future glory

Beloved, we are God's children now, but what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we will see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.
- 1John 3:2-3 ESV

We are God's children right this very moment, but there is nothing in our appearance that we can point to as a visible proof of this. The change has happened in our spirit, and it is gradually becoming visible through our actions that we have been born of God. But when we have received our glorified bodies, nobody will ask if we are born of God or not, just like nobody would ask the Lord Jesus if he is the Son of God or not. The scriptures say that we will see him as he is. That is a very bold statement, considering that nobody has ever seen God except the Son. But on that Day we will see him as he is. We will see God in his glory and we will be like him.

I want you to think about what this means. You will see God as he is, and then you will be transformed to be like him. There is a prototype of what you will be in eternity, do you wish to see it? If you want to know what you will be like when you have received your glorified body, look at the scriptures that talk about the Lord Jesus Christ, because when you see him, you will be like him. Look at what the Lord Jesus Christ said as he pray to the Father on John, the seventeenth chapter.

The glory that you have given me I have given them, that they may be one even as we are one.
- John 17:22 ESV

There is glory that you have already received, and this is the glory that the Lord Jesus had when he walked this earth. You can do the same works that he did. But there is a future glory, and this is a glory that the Lord Jesus entered in when he went back to the Father. Look at this scripture:

And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
- John 17:5 ESV

This is the glory in which we will see him and the scriptures are bold to say that we will see him as he is, and not only that, but we will also become like him. Again I say that this is a very bold statement. How can you even see God as he is? There is quite a lot of people who can testify that they have seen the Lord Jesus Christ, but none of them has seen him as he is. I say this because nobody can see God and live, (see Exodus 33:20).

Those who see him as he is, are immediately transformed into the same image. Even in our current state, in our fallen bodies, when we look at the Lord Jesus Christ as in a mirror dimly, we are transformed into the same image of glory, (see 2Corinthians 3:18). On that Day, when we will see him as he is, we will immediately be transformed to be as he is, even to the same glory.

Chapter Ten

Glorified bodies

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
- 1 Corinthians 15:19, KJV

We have been promised a glorious end. A Christian life is not a smooth sailing or a smooth drive. It is a stormy voyage and a bumpy ride. Among the many beautiful promises, we have also been promised persecution in this life. The scriptures are not reluctant to say that the afflictions of the righteous are many (Psalm 34:19), and we have been promised that all who desire to live a godly life in Christ will be persecuted (2Timothy 3:12). The Lord Jesus affirmed that the persecutions will rise for the sake of the word, and that those who have no root in themselves will fall away (Matthew 13:21).

If therefore we only hope in Christ in this life, the life that has promised us suffering for the sake of Christ, then we are of all people miserable. Because, if Christ has not been raised from the dead, then our patience in suffering and affliction for righteousness sake, has no reward. But we are not those who are without hope. We know that God raised our Lord Jesus from the dead and therefore he will also raise us up into glory together with our Lord. Christ himself is the hope of glory, for when he appears, we will appear with him in glory.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- Romans 5:1-2, KJV

We hope in the glory of God, because he has promised us glory like his. He has promised us that we shall be like him because we will see him as he is. With believing hearts, we rejoice in this as we wait for the return of our Lord to redeem our bodies.

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- 1 John 3:2, KJV

Our lives are already hidden with Christ in heaven, and when he appears, we will appear with him in glory.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.
- Colossians 3:3-4, KJV

Glorified vs. resurrected bodies

There is a glorified body and there is a resurrected unglorified body and the two are not the same. The former is superior and is exclusively for believers, while the latter is for unbelievers. In resurrection, everyone will receive a new body, but the saints will receive new bodies and those bodies will be glorified. This will happen when the Lord returns.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

- 1 Corinthians 15:20-24, KJV

At his coming, the Lord Jesus Christ will complete the work of salvation by redeeming our bodies. He will give us new and glorified bodies, unlike the unbelievers who will still have resurrected bodies but unglorified. Below is a story taken from the book of Luke as was narrated by the Lord about two men who died, and went to two different places. The dialogue shows that both these men had bodies. Let us look at the story:

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. - Luke 16:19-25, KJV

There are some points that I want to make based on the above story. Notice that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels, and this does not mean that his body was not buried. This means when he died he was taken on a different body by the angels. This body is not yet glorified since the coming of the Lord is still pending.

The rich man also died and he too had a body, through which he went to hell. And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments. This is clear indication that this man had a body, since he had eyes. This man was thirsty and we know that the soul does not drink water, nor does the spirit, but water is a thing required by the body, but this man cried out and asked

Abraham to send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool this man's tongue. Those who are dead have bodies and they are waiting for the resurrection and judgment.

For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
- John 5:26-29 ESV

Those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ will enter life in the new creation of God spoken off in the book of Revelation. They will live with God for all eternity. We are all waiting for that glorious new creation, when the old and the corrupt will be done away with. See the below scripture.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

- Revelation 21:1-5 ESV

But those who rejected the Savior and chose damnation, will resurrect to judgment – damnation. Meanwhile they are waiting in the place of torment called Hell and Hades, and when the time set by God for judgment comes, they will receive damnation and be thrown in to the Lake of Fire which will be the final judgment.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- Revelation 20:11-15 ESV

The dead (those who rejected Christ during their earthly lives), will enter damnation with their resurrected bodies. The below scriptures shows it, even as I have already quoted a different scripture in another place to teach the same truth.

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

- Matthew 10:28, KJV

From the above quoted we learn, that not only souls are destroyed in hell, but both soul and body. Those who are in hell therefore, waiting for judgment, already have bodies, they are only souls.

Whatever it is that one might be going through in this life is not worth the joy that is stored up for us when the Day of Christ comes. There is no amount of suffering that should make you give up your birth right like Esau. You have been redeemed for God and in the life hereafter you will know no sorrow, nor trouble, even as the scriptures declare.

The Lord Jesus came to save you from eternal punishment. He came that you may have Life and have it in abundance. In all things that you can give up, don't give your eternity to the Devil by rejecting the mercy of God given to all of us through Christ Jesus our Lord.

The suffering may be intense now, but our end will be glorious through Christ our Lord, and the suffering that we are going through now is not worth comparison with the joy and the glory that will be revealed in us.

Please slowly and carefully read the below scriptures. The passage is broken into segments for you to meditate on each point that is being made. These are speaking pertaining to the resurrection of the saints, those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a glimpse of our glorious end, beheld as in a mirror dimly.

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.

There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So is it with the resurrection of the dead.

What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.

The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

-1 Corinthians 15:35-49 ESV